

We claim:

1. A dummy client device for conducting a chat with a client device through a chat server, the dummy client device comprising:

5 a monitoring part monitoring the content of an utterance sent to said chat server from a client device;

a determination part determining whether the content of the utterance monitored by the monitoring part satisfies a predetermined sentence condition; and

10 a process execution part, when the determination part determines that the utterance satisfies the predetermined sentence condition, executing a process corresponding to the predetermined sentence condition in accordance with the content of the utterance.

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2. The dummy client device according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined sentence condition is that a predetermined word or sentence segment is included in the utterance.

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3. The dummy client device according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined sentence condition is that a predetermined word or sentence segment is located at a predetermined position in the utterance.

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4. The dummy client device according to claim 1,
wherein said determination part determines whether the
content of the utterance satisfies the predetermined
sentence condition only when the utterance is addressed to
5 itself.

5. The dummy client device according to claim 1,
further comprising a message table for storing a
correspondence between a message to be conveyed and its
10 forwarding address,

wherein when said determination part determines that an
utterance from a client device satisfies a predetermined
sentence condition, said process execution part registers a
message to be conveyed and its forwarding address that are
15 included in the utterance into said message table.

6. The dummy client device according to claim 5,
wherein when said determination part determines that an
utterance from a client device satisfies another
20 predetermined sentence condition, said process execution
part sends out to said chat server a message to be
forwarded to the client device as an utterance, the process
execution means thereafter deleting the message sent out
and its forwarding address from said message table.

7. The dummy client device according to claim 5,
wherein when a predetermined condition is satisfied, said
process execution part sends out message information to
said chat server as an utterance, the message information
5 indicating that there is a message to be forwarded to the
forwarding address registered in said message table.

8. The dummy client device according to claim 7,
wherein said predetermined condition is that a client that
10 has been registered in said message table as the forwarding
address transmits an utterance to said chat server.

9. The dummy client device according to claim 6,
wherein when said determination means determines that an
15 utterance from a client satisfies still another
predetermined sentence condition, said process execution
part sends out, as an utterance, to said chat server
messages that are currently registered in said message
table among messages included in utterances that had been
20 transmitted by said client in the past.

10. The dummy client device according to claim 6,
wherein when said determination part determines that an
utterance from a client satisfies still another
25 predetermined sentence condition, said process execution

part deletes messages included in utterances that had been transmitted by said client in the past from said message table.

5 11. The dummy client device according to claim 5, further comprising a date and time specified message table for storing a message to be conveyed, its forwarding address, and a specified date/time associated with one another,

10 wherein when said determination part determines that an utterance from a client satisfies another predetermined sentence condition, said process execution part registers a message to be conveyed, its forwarding address, and its specified date/time that are included in the utterance into
15 said date and time specified message table, and

 wherein when a current time reaches said specified date/time, said process execution part moves said message to be conveyed and its forwarding address that have been registered in the said date and time specified table
20 corresponding to said specified date/time to said message table.

 12. The dummy client device according to claim 1, further comprising management part, when an utterance from
25 client monitored by said monitoring part includes a keyword

indicating a termination of a chat, recording
identification information of the client and the keyword
spoken by the client,

wherein when said determination part determines that an
5 utterance from a client satisfies a predetermined sentence
condition, said process execution part sends out to said
chat server, as an utterance message information indicating
whether a client whose identification information is
included in said utterance is still accessing said chat
10 server in accordance with the content recorded in said
management part.

13. The dummy client device according to claim 1,
wherein when said determination part determines that an
15 utterance from a client satisfies a predetermined sentence
condition, said process execution part sends out a message
included in such an utterance to all channels of said chat
server.

20 14. The dummy client device according to claim 1,
wherein said predetermined sentence condition is that one
or more of keywords that has been registered in advance is
included in the utterance.

15. The dummy client device according to claim 14,
wherein when said determination part determines that an
utterance from a client satisfies said predetermined
sentence condition, said process execution part sends out
5 to said chat server, as an utterance, message information
that has been associated with said one or more of keywords
included in the utterance in advance.

16. The dummy client device according to claim 14,
10 wherein when said determination part determines that an
utterance from a client satisfies said predetermined
sentence condition, said process execution part sends out
to said chat server, as an utterance, the content of a
document file specified by message information that has
15 been associated with said one or more of keywords included
in the utterance in advance.

17. The dummy client device according to claim 16,
wherein when said message information includes an file name
20 of said document file and a special character string, said
process execution part sends out to said chat server, as an
utterance, a part of the content of a document file having
said file name.

18. The dummy client device according to claim 15 or 16, further comprising a keyword registry table for storing a correspondence between said one or more of keywords and said message information on demand, said determination part
5 and said process execution part referencing the keyword registry table.

19. The dummy client device according to claim 18,
wherein said keyword registry table further registers a
10 specified channel of said chat server in which the correspondence between said one or more of keywords and said message information is effective,

wherein when said determination part determines that an utterance from a client satisfies said predetermined
15 sentence condition, said process execution part executes said process as long as correspondence of one or more of keywords contained in the utterance and a message information is not specified as effective in a channel that is different from a channel in which the utterance is
20 transmitted.

20. The dummy client device according to claim 18,
wherein when said determination part determines that an utterance from a client satisfies another predetermined
25 sentence condition, said process execution part registers

one or more of keywords included in the utterance and said message information into said keyword registry table with them associated with each other.

5 21. The dummy client device according to claim 19,
wherein when said determination part determines that an
utterance from a client satisfies another predetermined
sentence condition, said process execution part registers
one or more of keywords included in the utterance, said
10 message information, and at least one said specified
channel into said keyword registry table with them
associated with one another.

15 22. The dummy client device according to claim 1,
wherein when said determination part determines that an
utterance from a client satisfies a predetermined sentence
condition, said process execution part executes a process
corresponding to the predetermined sentence condition by
cooperating with a back-end server connected via
20 communication.

25 23. The dummy client device according to claim 22,
wherein when said determination part determines that an
utterance from a client satisfies a predetermined sentence
condition, said process execution part requests a

predetermined back-end server to transmit a message included in the utterance to a contact address of an addressee specified in the utterance.

5 24. The dummy client device according to claim 23, further comprising a contact registry table for registering said addressee, a communication method and a contact address in a mutually associated manner,

10 wherein said process execution part requests a back-end server to transmit said message to said contact address that is associated in said contact registry table with said addressee specified in said utterance, the back-end server being selected in accordance with the communication method that is associated with said addressee in the contact
15 registry table.

20 25. The dummy client device according to claim 24, wherein when said determination part determines that an utterance from a client satisfies another predetermined sentence condition, said process execution part registers an addressee, a communication method, and a contact address that are included in the utterance into said contact registry table with them associated with one another.

26. The dummy client device according to claim 22,
wherein when said determination part determines that an
utterance from a client satisfies a predetermined sentence
condition, said process execution part requests a
5 predetermined back-end server to search for items in
accordance with letters included in the utterance.

27. The dummy client device according to claim 26,
wherein said process execution part requests a dictionary
10 server to translate the letters included in said utterance,
and sends out to said chat server, as an utterance, message
information based on a response from the dictionary server.

28. The dummy client device according to claim 26,
15 wherein said process execution part requests a portal site
to search for a URL of a home page relating to letters
included in said utterance, said process execution means
converting a response from the portal site to an HTML
document and sending out a URL of the HTML document to said
20 chat server as an utterance.

29. The dummy client device according to claim 26,
wherein said process execution part requests a personal
information management server to search for personal
25 information based on a search condition included in said

utterance, and sends out to said chat server, as an utterance, message information based on a response from the personal information management server.

5 30. The dummy client device according to claim 22,
wherein when said determination part determines that an
utterance from a client satisfies a predetermined sentence
condition, said process execution part requests a calendar
server that is managing a place specified in the utterance
10 to reserve said place for a time specified in the utterance.

15 31. The dummy client device according to claim 22,
wherein when said determination part determines that an
utterance from a client satisfies a predetermined sentence
condition, said process execution part requests a calendar
server that is managing a facility specified in the
utterance to check a reservation status of said facility
for a time specified in the utterance, and sends out to
said chat server, as an utterance, message information
20 based on a response from the calendar server.

25 32. The dummy client device according to claim 22,
wherein when said determination means determines that an
utterance from a client satisfies a predetermined sentence
condition, said process execution part requests a calendar

server that is managing a schedule of an individual specified by an individual name included in the utterance to check said schedule of the individual for a time specified in the utterance and sends out to said chat server, as an utterance, message information based on a response from the calendar server.

33. The dummy client device according to claim 1, further comprising an alarm table for storing an alarm message and a specified date/time associated with each other,

wherein when said determination part determines that an utterance from a client satisfies another predetermined sentence condition, said process execution part registers an alarm message and a specified time that are included in the utterance into said alarm table, and

wherein when a current time reaches said specified time, said execution part sends out to said chat server, as an utterance, said alarm message that has been registered in said alarm table as corresponding to said specified time.

34. A computer readable medium storing a dummy client program, the dummy client program causing a computer that is capable of communication via a communication channel to perform the steps of:

having a chat with other clients through a chat server;
monitoring the content of utterances sent to said chat
server from said other clients;

determining whether the content of said utterance
5 satisfies a predetermined sentence condition; and

executing, when the utterance satisfies the
predetermined sentence condition, a process corresponding
to the predetermined sentence condition in accordance with
the content of the utterance.

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35. A chat system comprising:

a chat server to which a plurality of clients is able
to access via a communication channel, and which provides a
chat environment where an utterance transmitted from any
15 one of clients is sent out to other clients, and

a dummy client device including a communication part
accessing the chat server as a client through a
communication channel, a monitoring part monitoring the
content of utterances sent to said chat server from said
20 other clients, a determination part determining whether the
content of the utterance monitored by the monitoring part
satisfies a predetermined sentence condition, and a process
execution part, when the determination part determines that
an utterance satisfies the predetermined sentence condition,
25 executing a process corresponding to the predetermined

sentence condition in accordance with the content of the utterance.